

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE (CO*)?

It's an odorless, colorless gas produced by burning fuel.

In the home, dangerous levels of CO can occur if fuel-burning appliances are:

NOT WORKING PROPERLY

CO can build up if furnaces, water heaters and other appliances are:

- improperly installed or maintained
- damaged
- not working right for any reason.

USED INCORRECTLY

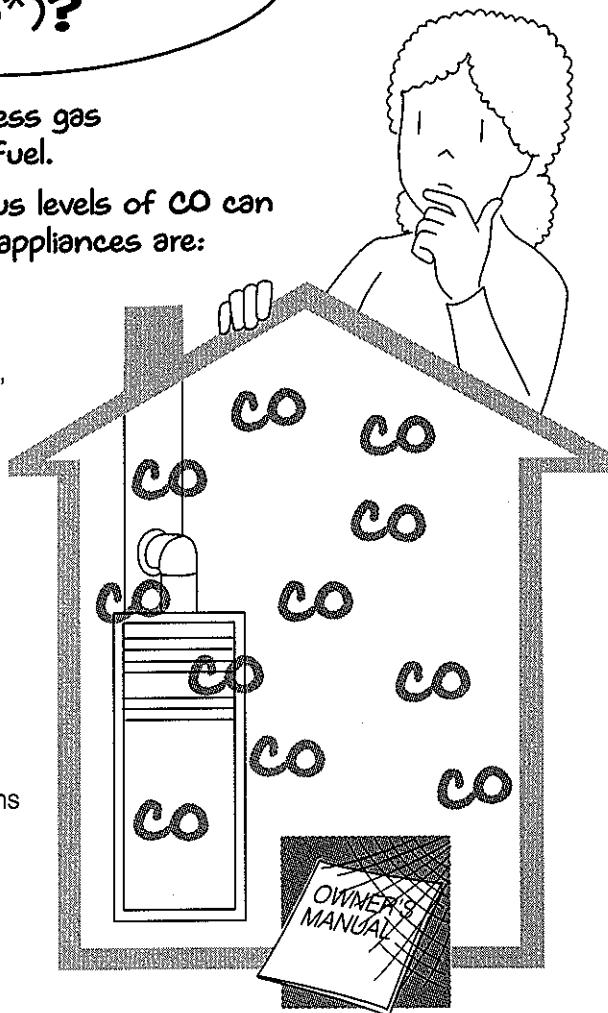
People must use fuel-burning appliances:

- according to the manufacturer's instructions
- with proper ventilation
- only for their intended purpose.

If operating instructions and safety warnings are not followed, a serious CO problem can develop.

Vehicles and other fuel-burning equipment in and around the home also produce CO.

*CO is the chemical name for carbon monoxide.

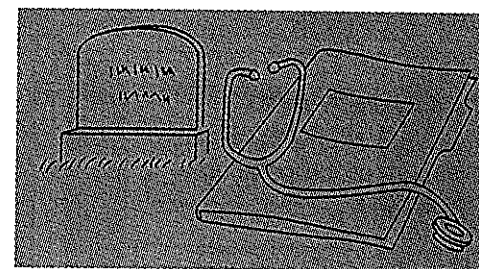


WHY SHOULD I LEARN ABOUT CO?

Because CO could poison you and your loved ones if it builds up in your home.

EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE DIE

from CO poisoning in the home. Thousands more become ill and require medical treatment. Some suffer lasting harm, including brain damage.

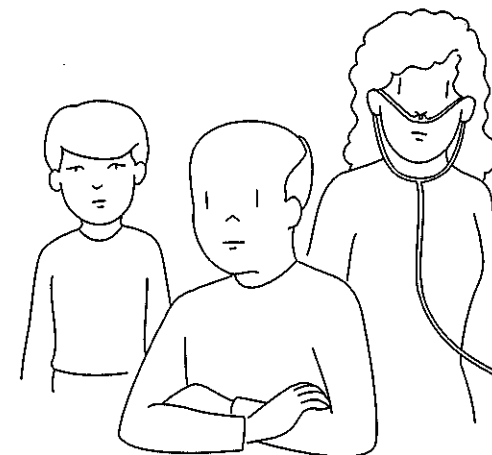


SOME PEOPLE ARE AT GREATER RISK

for CO poisoning. They include:

- children and unborn babies
- older people
- people with heart or lung diseases.

But anyone can suffer from CO poisoning.



Fortunately, there are ways to prevent CO poisoning in the home — and keep everyone safe!

Read on...



WHAT ARE THE MAIN SOURCES OF CO?

Any appliance or vehicle that runs on oil, natural gas, kerosene, propane, coal, wood or gasoline can produce CO. Common sources of CO around the home include:

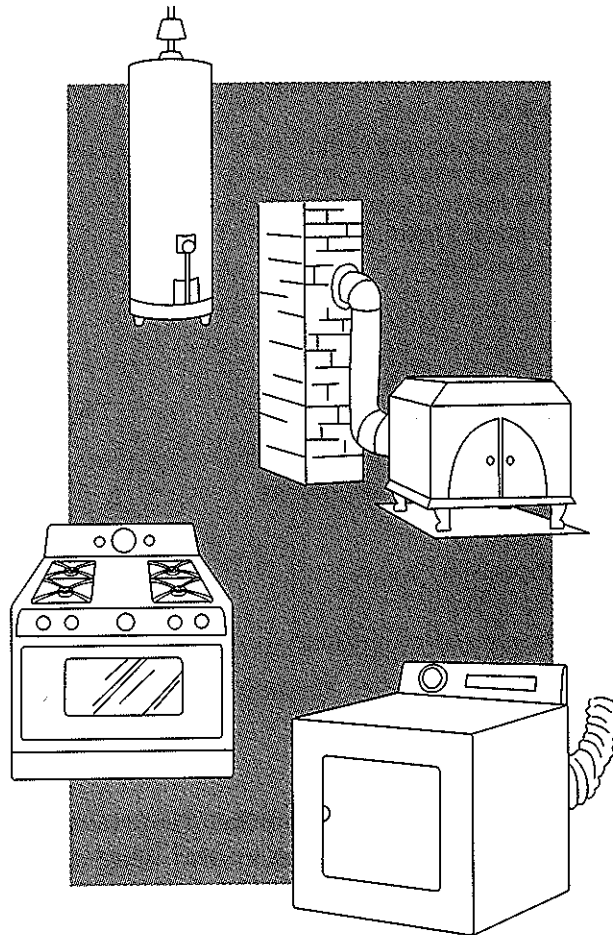
FURNACES AND WATER HEATERS

that burn oil, propane or natural gas

FIREPLACES AND WOOD STOVES

GAS RANGES AND OVENS

GAS DRYERS



SPACE HEATERS

that run on fuel,
especially kerosene

CHARCOAL OR GAS GRILLS

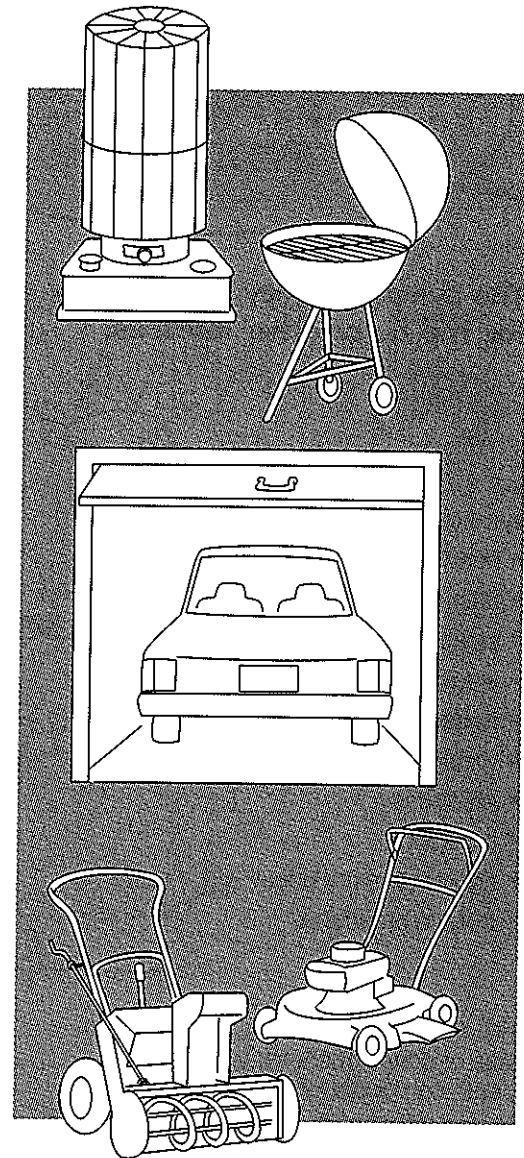
VEHICLES

YARD EQUIPMENT

with gasoline-powered engines,
including lawn mowers, snow
blowers and chain saws.

VENTILATION PROBLEMS

from chimneys, flues and
vents used with furnaces,
water heaters, fireplaces
or wood stoves can also
cause CO to build up.



When installed and maintained properly, fuel-burning appliances and vehicles produce very little CO. But if not working properly or used incorrectly, they can produce dangerous amounts.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CO POISONING?

The symptoms may be mistaken for the flu or other illnesses.

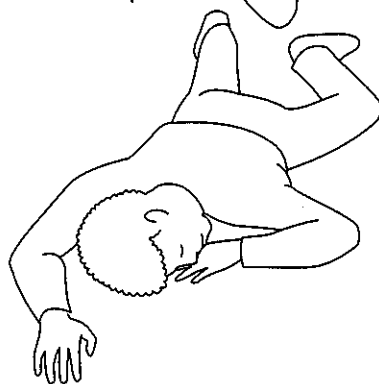
AT LOW LEVELS,
symptoms may include:

- headache
- fatigue
- sleepiness
- weakness
- nausea
- vomiting
- dizziness
- confusion
- tightness in the chest
- trouble breathing.



AT HIGH LEVELS,
loss of consciousness, coma and death can occur within a short time.

Exposure to lower levels of CO over several hours can be just as dangerous as exposure to higher levels for a few minutes.



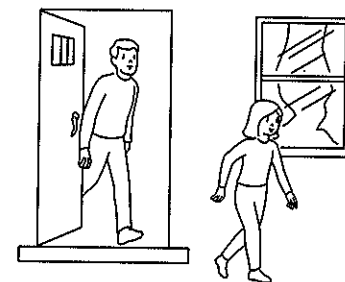
If you or any member of your household has symptoms:

GET FRESH AIR IMMEDIATELY

Everyone should get out of the building at once.

CALL FOR HELP

Dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency number from a nearby phone.

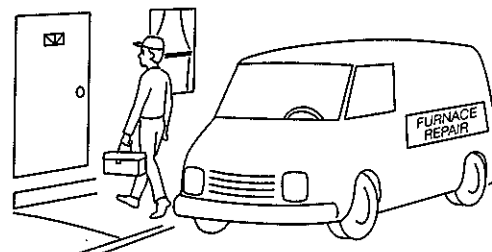
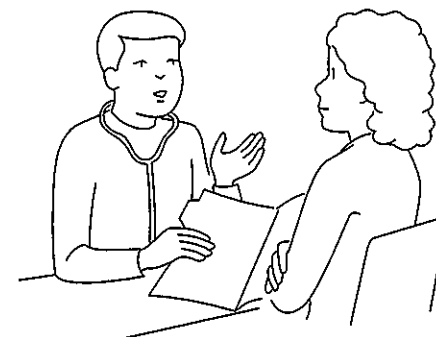


SEEK MEDICAL HELP RIGHT AWAY

Get help even if you or others feel better after leaving your home. To help diagnose the problem, a health-care provider may want to know if:

- other household members also have symptoms
- you or other household members feel better when you're away from your home.

A blood and/or breath test may be used to diagnose CO poisoning.



HAVE YOUR HOME CHECKED

Contact your local utility or a qualified professional to inspect your home.

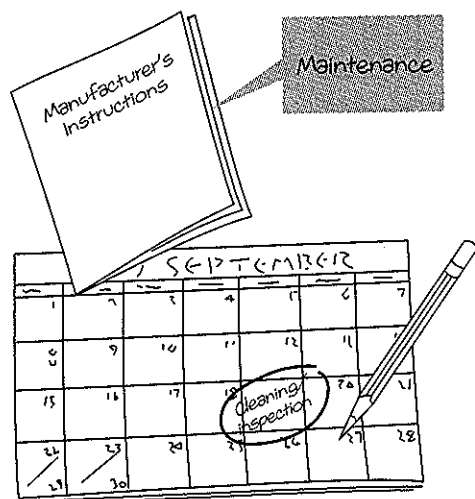
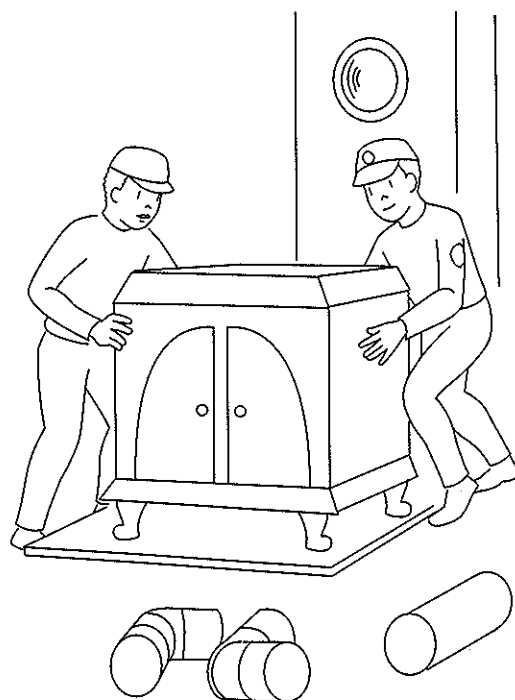
Don't go back in until any problems have been corrected.

PREVENTION IS THE KEY

to keeping you and your loved ones safe from CO.

HAVE FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES INSTALLED

by qualified professionals. Be sure they check for backdrafting. Backdrafting means that exhaust does not vent properly to the outside. It may be pulled down the chimney instead.



MAINTAIN APPLIANCES

according to the manufacturer's instructions. Have appliances checked regularly to ensure they are working safely. Don't attempt repairs yourself unless you have all the required training and tools.

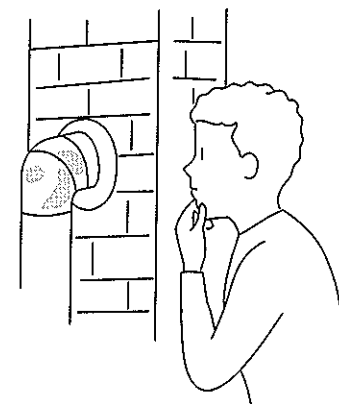
HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM INSPECTED AND CLEANED

each year by a qualified professional.

CHECK CHIMNEYS,
flues and vent pipes often.
Be alert for:

- loose or cracked masonry
- spots of rust, stains or water streaking
- loose or improper connections.

Call for an inspection and/or repairs if you notice any problems.

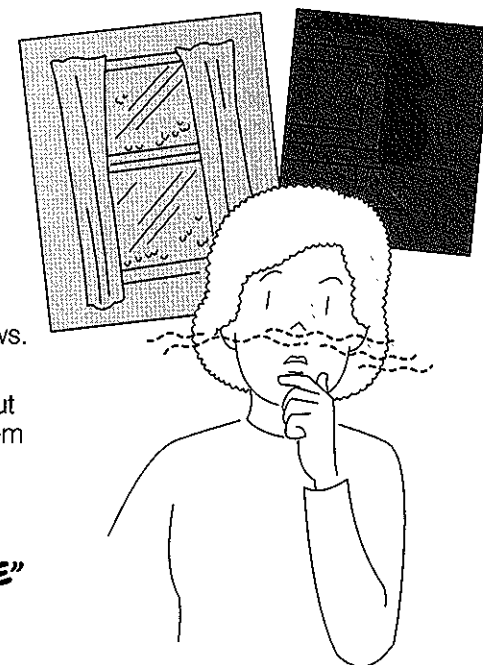


WATCH FOR ANY SIGNS

of a CO problem in your home. These include:

- soot buildup near fuel-burning appliances
- a burning smell or other unusual odor
- an appliance that keeps shutting off
- a yellow-looking flame on a gas appliance
- excess moisture inside of windows.

It's also possible to have a CO problem with no obvious signs. Shut off any appliance that does not seem to be working properly. Contact a qualified professional to inspect it.



LET YOUR HOME "BREATHE"

-- air leaks help prevent CO from building up. Be sure to check with a qualified professional if you install new windows or make other improvements that seal up air leaks in your home.

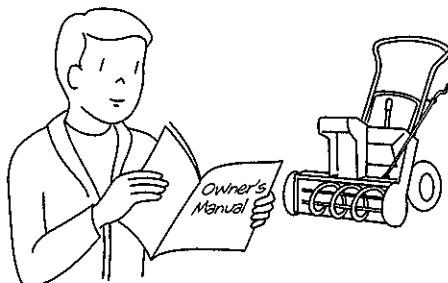
Don't smoke in your home. Tobacco smoke produces CO -- and can raise CO levels inside your home.

DON'T TAKE CHANCES

Use fuel-burning appliances and vehicles correctly to avoid trouble.

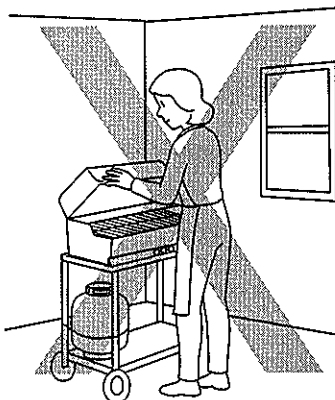
FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS

for the proper use of each appliance. Keep the owner's manual handy in case you have questions. Never ignore safety warnings.



NEVER USE A CHARCOAL OR GAS GRILL INDOORS,

or in a garage, enclosed porch, tent or camper. Opening a door or window or running a fan is not enough to prevent CO from building up.

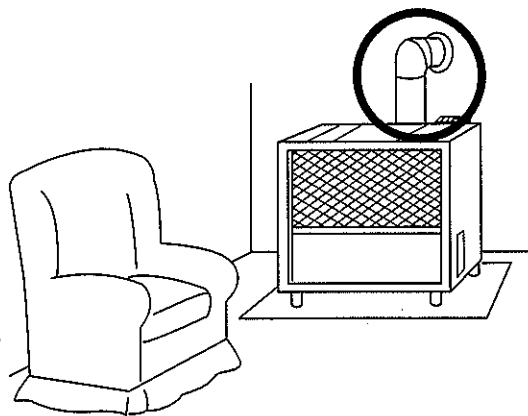


VENT A FUEL-BURNING HEATER

to the outside. If you must use an unvented, fuel-burning heater in an emergency:

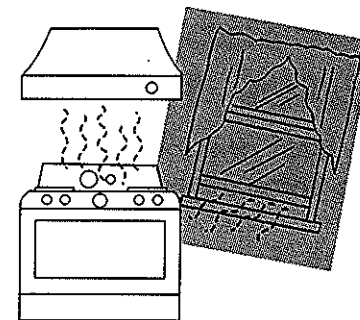
- Always use the right kind of fuel.
- Open a window for ventilation.
- Don't use the heater in a closed room. Keep doors open.
- Never sleep -- or let anyone else sleep -- in a room with the heater running.

Obey all local and state laws for using portable or space heaters.



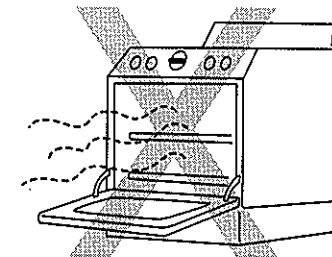
VENT A GAS RANGE

to the outside. Crack a window and run the exhaust fan whenever you cook.



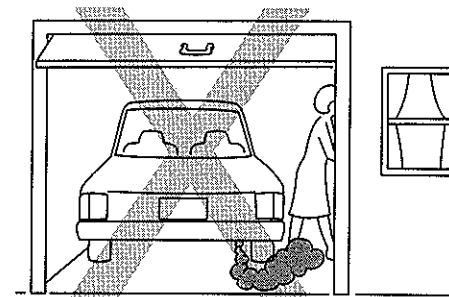
NEVER USE A GAS RANGE OR OVEN FOR HEATING

a room -- even for just a short time.



NEVER LEAVE A VEHICLE RUNNING IN A GARAGE

-- even if the garage door and/or windows are open. CO can build up quickly in the garage. If the garage is attached to your home, CO could get inside your home, too.



START YARD EQUIPMENT OUTDOORS

-- never in a garage, basement or other enclosed space. Maintain the equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.



Know what the risks are -- and how you can avoid them!

CO DETECTORS PROVIDE BACKUP PROTECTION

Have at least one installed in your home. Here are some suggestions:

COMPARE DIFFERENT TYPES

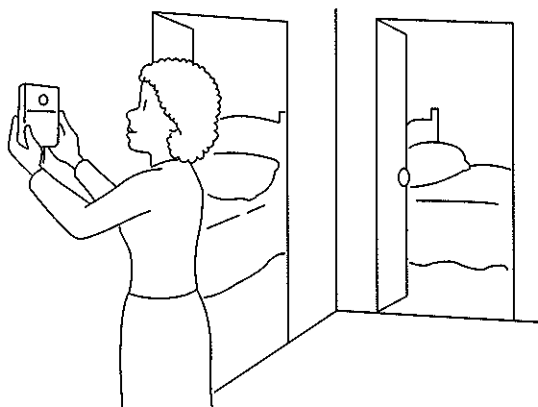
of CO detectors. There are two main types:

- Plug-in models plug into an electrical outlet. Some have a battery backup in case the power goes out.
- Battery-powered models use a special battery pack. The pack must be replaced as recommended. These models do not have to be installed near electrical outlets.

Consider the benefits of each type. Be sure the detector you choose is listed by a qualified, independent testing laboratory.

INSTALL ONE NEAR SLEEPING AREAS

on each floor of your home. Be sure to locate detectors at least 5 to 6 feet away from any fuel-burning appliances. Check the manufacturer's instructions for information about proper installation and location of CO detectors.



CONTACT YOUR FIRE OR RESCUE DEPARTMENT, and tell them you've purchased a CO detector. Use the nonemergency phone number. Ask what number you should call if the detector's alarm sounds.

TEST AND MAINTAIN CO DETECTORS

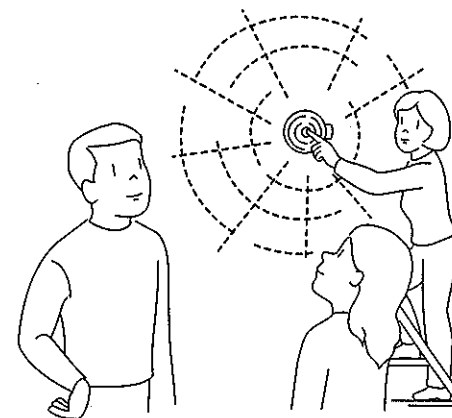
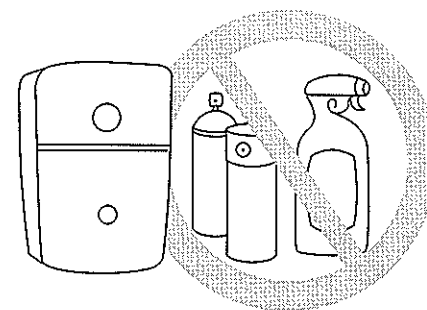
according to the manufacturer's instructions. If your detectors are battery powered, replace the battery packs as often as recommended. Mark your calendar so you'll remember.

KEEP HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AWAY

from your detectors. (Long-term exposure to chemicals could damage a detector.) Check the manufacturer's instructions for more information.

KNOW WHAT THE ALARM SOUNDS LIKE

on your CO detectors. Be sure you can tell the difference between CO detector alarms and smoke detector alarms. (CO detectors do not take the place of smoke detectors. Properly install, test and maintain smoke detectors in your home.)



IN SOME PLACES, CO DETECTORS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW

But remember -- CO detectors are never a replacement for the proper use and care of your appliances.

WHAT IF THE CO DETECTOR ALARM GOES OFF?

You should assume it's an emergency.

1. OPERATE THE RESET BUTTON

on your CO detector. Do not wait to see if the alarm sounds again.

2. IMMEDIATELY SEEK FRESH AIR

-- get everyone out of the building as soon as possible.*

3. CALL 9-1-1,

or your local emergency number, from the nearest phone you can get to (outside your building). Follow exactly any instructions the emergency operator gives you.

4. DON'T GO BACK IN

until any problems have been corrected.

*If going outside means endangering yourself or others, first call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number, then stand by an open door or window until emergency services arrive and any problem has been corrected.

Never ignore
the alarm!

So-- CO IS A DANGEROUS GAS

✓ **HAVE FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES**
installed and inspected by professionals.

✓ **FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS**
when using any fuel-burning
appliance or vehicle.

✓ **KNOW THE SYMPTOMS**
of CO poisoning -- and
what to do if you or a loved
one has them.

✓ **INSTALL CO
DETECTORS**
in your home.

**Keep your loved
ones and yourself
safe from
carbon monoxide.**

